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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
B.R.E.

NOVEMBER 17, 1947 SS-60

Weather Aids 1947 Crop Volume

Weather has been favorable to ideal for maturing, curing, and harvesting. November 1 found crops just about holding their own or slightly improved from last month. Measured in terms of total volume, 1947 is another big crop year, only 1 percent below the average of our 5 best years, 1942-46. Estimated total production is a fifth larger than 1923-32 base and only 6 index points below last year's largest crop on record.

Hay, oilseed, fruits, and truck crops reached relatively large or above-average outturns. Corn and other feed grains are below average; but the food grains total will break all records. Up from last month are sorghum grain, rice, potatoes, peanuts, tobacco, sugarbeets and pears. Down a little from last month are cotton, soybeans, buckwheat, sugar cane, apples and grapes.

Drought Threat to Next Year's Wheat

Good crops assured for this year...chief concern is over prospects for next year's wheat. Biggest wheat harvest on record has been completed but lack of moisture in important winter wheat States has delayed planting for next year's crop.

Only about three-fourths of intended winter wheat acreage had been seeded by November 1 in the 6 States of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado and New Mexico, where normally seeding would have been completed. In the 4 most seriously affected States--Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico--nearly half of the winter wheat acreage is usually harvested. Some seed have been sown in the dust, hoping for rain. More seeding is still possible if rain comes in November and December.

Seeding has progressed well in all other important wheat areas. And in these high yielding areas an increased acreage is apparent. Prospects are very bright in the Pacific Northwest, where seeding started early and was far along when heavy fall rains came. In California, seeding is just beginning with soil moisture satisfactory. In most Mountain States conditions were favorable for germination and growth. In the eastern soft wheat area germination and growth have been excellent and some fields have been pastured to control the lush growth.

Where the Rain Fell

October rainfall was short in large portions of the country, excessive in others. It ranged from one-fourth to half normal in the Northeast, the Southern Great Plains and the Southwest, and from half-normal to near normal in most of the East North Central and South Central regions, with a dry triangle in Montana and eastern Idaho. Tropical storms brought downpours to the Southeast. Heavy rains fell in the Missouri and central Mississippi valleys after an extended dry spell. Rains up to 4 times normal fell in northeastern Washington and were heavy throughout the Pacific Northwest, northern California and central Mountain area. Rains in early November did much to relieve dry conditions in the eastern part of the country.

After frosts in the week prior to October 1, virtually no killing frosts were reported in important crop areas during October. Late crops profited by the extended growing season to improve in quality. Some late planted fields were given time to mature and others cured well. Farm work is well advanced in most areas, the major exception being in the very dry winter wheat area in the Southern Great Plains.

Corn Is of Better Quality

Significant change in corn during the past month has been the improvement in quality and feeding value. There is more hard corn than previously expected, due to the extended growing and curing season, although the new estimate is down slightly. November 1 estimate is 2,447 million bushels; last month, 2,458 million; last year's production, 3,288 million; 1936-45 average, 2,639 million bushels.

Other Crops with Comparisons

Other 1947 crop estimates compared with production last year and 1936-45 average follow:

Wheat, 1.4 billion bu., 1.2 billion last year, 0.9 billion average. Rice, 77 million bu., 72 million last year, 58 million average. Rye, 25.4 million bu., 18.7 million last year, 37.9 million average.

Buckwheat, 7.4 million bu., 7.1 million last year, 7 million average. Oats, 1,232 million bu., 1,510 million last year, 1,161 million average. Barley, 284.5 million bu., 263.4 million last year, 287.3 million average. Sorghum grain, 86 million bu., 107 million last year, 92 million average. Hay, 102 million tons, 101 million last year, 94 million average. Flaxseed, 40 million bu., 23 million last year, 25 million average. Peanuts, 2,125 million lb., 2,036 million last year, 1,673 million average. Soybeans, 177 million lbs., 197 million last year, 118 million average. Edible beans, 17 million bags (100 lb.), 16 million last year, 16 million average. Dry peas, 7 million bags, 7 million last year, 5 million average. Potatoes, 380 million bu., 476 million last year, 376 million average. Sweet potatoes, 58 million bu., 67 million last year, 64 million average. Sorgo sirup, 11.4 million gal., 12 million last year, 11.5 million average. Sugarcane sirup, 19 million gal., 24 million last year, 21 million average. Sugarcane, 5.5 million tons, 6 million last year, 6 million average. Sugar beets, 12.4 million tons, 10.6 million last year, 9.6 million average. Apples, 113 million bu., 119 million last year, 113 million average. Peaches, 84 million bu., 87 million last year, 63 million average. Pears, 35 million bu., 34 million last year, 30 million average. Grapes, 3 million tons, 3.1 million last year, 2.6 million average.

Feed per Animal about Equal '37-41

Total supply of feed concentrates for '47-48 season (feed grains, byproduct feeds, and wheat and rye to be used for feed), estimated at about 139 million tons, is about 14 percent less than last season and 10 to 20 percent smaller than for the past 5 very favorable years. But the estimate is slightly larger than the '37-41 average and '47-48 supplies per animal unit will be almost as large as in '37-41.

The 4 feed grains produced this year total about 98 million tons, 22 percent under 1946 record. But combined carryover of corn, oats, and barley is about 14 million tons, or 3 million tons greater than in '46. More wheat may be fed than the 200 million bushels fed last season, and byproduct feeds will be large--near the 19.5 million ton record of last season.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

| COMMODITY AND UNIT | ACTUAL PRICE | | PARITY PRICE |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | Sept. 15 1947 | Oct. 15 1947 | |
| Wheat, bu.dol. | 2.43 | 2.66 | 2.11 |
| Corn, bu.dol. | 2.40 | 2.23 | 1.53 |
| Peanuts, lb.ct. | 10.0 | 9.96 | 11.5 |
| Cotton, lb.ct. | 31.21 | 30.65 | 29.64 |
| Potatoes, bu.dol. | 1.49 | 1.50 | 1.78 |
| Hogs, 100 lb.dol. | 27.20 | 27.60 | 17.40 |
| Beef cattle, 100 lb.dol. | 20.20 | 19.30 | 13.00 |
| Veal calves, 100 lb.dol. | 21.70 | 21.30 | 16.10 |
| Lambs, 100 lb.dol. | 21.60 | 20.30 | 14.10 |
| Butterfat, lb.ct. | 84.0 | 74.5 | 64.9 |
| Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.dol. | 2/ 4.42 | 4.64 | 1/ 4.08 |
| Chickens, live, lb.ct. | 27.9 | 26.6 | |
| Eggs, doz.ct. | 53.0 | 55.3 | 1/ 27.2 |
| | | | 59.6 |

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

²Revised

Fewer Cattle and Lambs on Feed

Fewer cattle are being fed this fall and winter than the large number fed last year. But the falling off has been less marked than expected a month ago. Total movement into Corn Belt, July-October, though 15 percent below last year, was second largest since 1940. Records from 8 of the Corn Belt States show 1,369,000 head. Other years, same period: 1,616,000 in '46; 1,315,000 in '45; 1,234,000 in '44; 1,169,000 in '43. Fewer lambs also will be fed. Number fed this season may be smallest in 18 years. Shipments of sheep and lambs into 8 of the Corn Belt States, July-October, are down 25 percent from last year.

Less Meat Seen for '48

Meat production in 1947 is expected to total about 23 billion pounds dressed weight, slightly above 1946. The 1948 output may be about 21.5 billion pounds--1.5 billion pounds under 1947. Reduced supplies of all classes--beef, veal, pork and lamb--are expected next year as a result of decrease in livestock numbers and reduced feed-grain supplies. Beef produced this year is expected to total largest on record, also may be fairly plentiful next year. Despite reduced production now seen, beef supplies in 1948 may be larger than in any other year except 1947 and 1945. Pork produced this year may be 8 percent under 1946, and may be further reduced in 1948 by about 5 percent. Lamb and mutton production, a fourth less this year than the average for past 5 years and smallest since 1929, may fall off an additional 10 percent in 1948.

Cotton Estimate Reduced; Supplies Down

Cotton crop November 1 was estimated at 11,505,000 bales, 3,000 bales below October 1 forecast. Last year's production was 8,640,000 bales; 1936-45 average, 12,390,000 bales.

U.S. supply of cotton for 1947-48 will be about 14 percent smaller than for last year, and the smallest since 1923-24. World cotton supply for 1947 is estimated at 42.3 million bales compared with 44.1 million bales for 1946. World carryover at end of 1946 season about 17.9 million bales, down 5.2 million from year earlier and down 8.6 million bales from the 1944 carryover.

Tobacco Crop Up 2 Percent

The tobacco crop, estimated at 2,191 million pounds, is about 2 percent above the October forecast. It is only 5 percent below last year's all-time record crop. Flue cured is estimated at 1,345 million pounds, almost as much as last year. Burley, at 525 million pounds, is about 14 percent below last year's record harvest, and shows a 3-million-pound improvement since last month. Maryland tobacco yields show improvement over earlier reports but the estimated 34.6 million pounds falls short of the 40.5 million grown in 1946. Dark air-cured, estimated at 42.3 million pounds, is about 6 million pounds under last year's crop. Fire-cured also falls short of last year, the estimate being 97 million pounds as against 109.4 million in 1946. Cigar tobaccos, showing a reduction of 2 million pounds from October, are estimated at 146.9 million pounds--including fillers 67.6 million, binders 66.1 million, and wrappers 13.1 million pounds.

Fewer Oranges, More Grapefruit

U.S. production of early and midseason oranges, forecast at 50 million boxes, will be 8 percent less than the big '46-'47 crop but 29 percent above average (Valencias not estimated until December). Grapefruit (exclusive of California summer) forecast at 60.8 million boxes, will be 5 percent more than last season and 41 percent more than average.

Fall Truck Crops Above Average

Truck crops for fall harvest are expected to be 7 percent above average but 21 percent below last fall's record output. Above average are lima beans, cauliflower, celery, cucumbers, lettuce and tomatoes; below average, snap beans, cabbage, egg plant, green peas, green peppers, carrots and spinach (last two only slightly below). For entire year 1947, truck for fresh market will total about 8.2 million tons, 13 percent below 1946 but 13 percent above average.

Truck for commercial processing, 1947 production, estimated at 5.53 million tons, will be 4.5 percent below 1946 but 31 percent more than average. Cabbage for kraut, asparagus and spinach for processing not included.

Seed Production Above Average

Estimated 1947 production of six major field seeds--alfalfa, red clover, alsike clover, sweetclover, timothy, and Sudan grass--is 285 million pounds of clean seed, 11 percent less than 1946 but 2 percent above 1941-45 average. Production of alfalfa, alsike clover, and timothy are above average while red clover, sweetclover, and Sudan grass are below average. The acreage harvested of the six seeds is estimated at 3,569,300 acres, compared with 4,602,800 acres in 1946 and the 5-year average of 3,401,140 acres. Weather for harvesting and threshing was favorable in most sections.

Cows and Hens Break Records

Milk per cow November 1 was highest for that date in 23 years--due to favorable pastures and close culling. But the fewer milk cows produced slightly less total milk in October than for same month in the past 3 years. For the first 10 months of this year production exceeded same period last year by 1 percent.

Hens laid more eggs per hen in October than ever before for that month. Total production was 3.5 billion eggs--8 percent above year ago, 38 percent above average. Mild weather better care and feeding, attractive egg prices and early entry of pullets into laying flocks helped to make the record. Potential layers on farms November 1, nearly 491.2 million, were 1 percent more than a year ago but 8 percent below 1941-45 average. Cost of poultry feed, mid-October, was \$4.71 per 100 pounds. Egg-feed and chicken-feed price ratios were less favorable for the month than in any year since records began in 1924.

Almost as Much Turkey as Last Year

Some 16 percent fewer turkeys were raised this year than last, but supplies for the holiday season will be only about 10 percent less because fewer turkeys have gone into storage this year than last.

Cost to feed turkeys in relation to turkey prices is the least favorable since 1936. Farmers' turkey prices in mid-October averaged 34.7 cents per pound, live weight, compared with 40.2 cents year ago and 21.6 cents average.

Prices Continue Up--Some Items Down

Prices received by farmers in October rose 3 index points over September to another new record--289 percent above 1910-14 base. Advances include truck crops, wheat and rice, hogs, cottonseed, flaxseed, oranges, eggs, and wholesale milk. Price declines include beef cattle, lambs, corn, grapefruit, sweetpotatoes, butterfat, and cotton. All fruit price was down 8 percent below previous month and 20 percent below year ago.

Prices paid by farmers rose 1 index point to 239, also a new high. Farmers paid more for food, fuel, and building materials. Lumber, millwork, brick, cement, and other building costs averaged about 40 percent higher than a year ago.

Total Employment and Production Climb

During the past year total civilian employment increased by 2.2 millions, to 59.2 million persons in October. Gain was mainly non-farm...little change in farm employment during the past year. With unemployment down to 1.7 million, almost everyone was at work. Industrial production in September was up to 185, (1935-39=100). This was 8 index points above July and only 5 points below the peacetime record reached in March. Production of durable goods was up 8 points in September from July. Automobiles increased sharply. September steel output remained near August level of 90 percent of capacity. Non-durable goods produced in September exceeded July levels by 7 points.

What Can Farmers Expect in '48 and After?

A roundup of the agricultural outlook will be found in BAE's "Agricultural Situation" for December. See also "The Agricultural Outlook Digest," monthly.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

| INDEX NUMBERS | BASE PERIOD | October 1947 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Prices received by farmers | 1910-14=100 | 289 |
| Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes | 1910-14=100 | 239 |
| Parity ratio | 1910-14=100 | 121 |
| Wholesale prices of food | 1910-14=100 | 277 |
| Retail prices of food..... | 1910-14=100 | 1/253 |
| Farm wage rates | 1910-14=100 | 416 |
| Weekly factory earnings | 1910-14=100 | 2/437 |
| PRODUCTION COMPARISONS | Jan.-Oct. 1946 | Jan.-Oct. 1947 |
| Milk, (Bil. lb.) | 102.9 | 103.9 |
| Eggs, (Bil.) | 48.7 | 48.4 |
| Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) | 3/ 3,917 | 3/ 5,601 |
| Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) | 3/ 642 | 3/ 524 |
| Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) | 3/ 5,974 | 3/ 6,626 |
| All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) | 3/10,938 | 3/13,380 |

1/September figure.

2/Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. Revised August figure.

3/January-September